

Walla Walla County Republican Party Bylaws

Definitions

Precinct Captain – A member of the Central Committee that has been appointed to serve in the role of Precinct Committee Officer for a precinct in which that member does not reside.

Statutory Member - Derives membership from state statute. These are Precinct Committee Officers (PCOs) elected by their precincts and PCOs appointed by the Chair.

Notice – For purposes of these bylaws, the designated communication method for notices shall be an email to the member’s address on file with the Secretary.

Article I Name

The name of this organization shall be the Walla Walla County Republican Central Committee, hereinafter referred to as the “Central Committee.” The trade name of the organization shall be the Walla Walla County Republican Party.

Article II Object

The objective of the Central Committee is to elect Republicans to public office and promote the principles stated in the platform. All actions of the Central Committee shall support these objectives.

Article III Membership

Section 1. Central Committee Members

Elected Precinct Committee Officers are automatic members of the Central Committee. In addition, individuals holding the following offices shall hold Central Committee membership and voting privileges for all functions of the Central Committee: Executive Board members as defined in Article VI, appointed Precinct Committee Officers, Precinct Captains and elected Republicans holding partisan office, provided those officials are registered voters of Walla Walla County or hold 16th Legislative District, 4th Congressional District or 5th Congressional District offices.

Section 2. Associate Members

Dues paying individuals registered to vote in Walla Walla County who are not part of the Central Committee are granted basic membership in the Walla Walla County Republican Party. These members

shall be entitled to all privileges of Central Committee membership except making motions, voting and access to records related to executive sessions.

Section 3. Dues

Dues shall be established by the Central Committee as a standing rule. There shall be no pro-rated application of dues.

Section 4. Resignations

Central Committee members and officers may resign from office at any time. A written resignation must be submitted to the Executive Board and shall take effect thirty days from receipt or the date indicated by the member, whichever is sooner.

Section 5. Members in Good Standing

- a.) Eligibility. To be a member in good standing, Central Committee and Associate members must have paid their dues for the current calendar year and attended at least one meeting per quarter. Dues are due no later than April 1. Members not in good standing because of unpaid dues, or lack of attendance, must pay current year dues and attend one full meeting to restore good standing. For extenuating circumstances, the executive board may waive the attendance requirement when given prior notice by the absent member.

- b.) Suspension. Good standing may be revoked by no less than a two-thirds vote of the Central Committee for any reason as it may deem appropriate, provided the Central Committee and the member in question have been given 10 days' notice of the proposed action before the vote is held. Members whose removal or suspension is before the committee shall have the right to speak in their own defense before such vote is held.

Article IV Officers

Section 1. Eligibility, Election and Appointment of Officers

- a) Eligibility. Any registered voter of Walla Walla County is eligible to be an officer for the Central Committee upon election, or appointment as specified below.
- b) Elections. The Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, State Committeewoman and State Committeeman shall be elected by a secret ballot of the Central Committee. Contested offices shall be considered for election individually.
- c) The Secretary shall be appointed by the Chair.
- d) Officers may be removed from office by a two-thirds vote of the Central Committee.

Section 2. Chair

The Chair shall have the following authority and duties:

- a) Act as Chief Executive Officer and spokesperson for the Walla Walla County Republican Party
- b) Preside at meetings of the Central Committee and Executive Board

- c) Participate as an ex-officio member of all standing and special committees
- d) Nominate chairs for standing and special committees, subject to confirmation by the Central Committee
- e) Appoint Precinct Committee Officers to fill PCO vacancies
- f) Nominate Precinct Captains, subject to confirmation by the Central Committee
- g) Appoint a webmaster
- h) Appoint a parliamentarian
- i) Direct and oversee a financial audit to be completed within sixty days of taking office
- j) Spend no more than fifty dollars in a thirty day period without Executive Board or Central Committee approval
- k) Direct and oversee an inventory of Central Committee assets within ninety days of taking office
- l) Accept membership on the State Committee when granted by the State Committee
- m) Perform all statutory duties and other duties as authorized by the Central Committee

Section 3. Vice-Chair

The Vice-Chair shall have the following authority and duties:

- a) Serve as Chair Pro Tem in the event of vacancy of the Chair or any time a motion involving the Chair would create a conflict of interest
- b) Call a special election within 30 days when such vacancy occurs, providing Central Committee members at least 10 days' notice of the special election
- c) Preside at meetings of the Central Committee and Executive Board meetings in the Chair's absence

Section 4. Treasurer

The Treasurer shall have the following authority and duties:

- a) Maintain all funds in an account designated by the Executive Board
- b) Submit a report at each Central Committee meeting containing itemized expenditures and income, or copies of all Public Disclosure and Federal Elections Commission filings for the last 30 days.
- c) Report periodically on current financial status in relation to the adopted budget
- d) Disburse payments in accordance with these bylaws
- e) Ensure compliance with all PDC and FEC regulations
- f) Chair the Finance Committee

Section 5. Secretary

The Secretary shall have the following authority and duties:

- a) Keep minutes of all meetings of the Central Committee and the Executive Board
- b) Maintain secure and accurate records
- c) Notify the County Auditor of Precinct Committee Officer appointments and resignations
- d) Facilitate all meeting notices, invitations, thank you cards and other correspondence as directed by the Chair

Section 6. State Committee Members

The State Committeeman and State Committeewoman shall have the following authority and duties:

- a) Perform their statutory duties and represent the Central Committee on the Republican State Committee of Washington
- b) Report on the activities of the State Committee to the Executive Board and the Central Committee.

Article V Meetings

Section 1. Regular Meetings

Regular meetings of the Central Committee shall be held every fourth Monday of each month, unless otherwise ordered by the Executive Board.

Section 2. Special Meetings

Other meetings may be called from time to time as directed by the Chair or Executive Board. Special meetings require Central Committee notice of at least five business days.

Section 3. Quorums

Twenty-five percent of the Central Committee membership in good standing shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business for any Central Committee meeting, unless otherwise specified by these bylaws. Only members in good standing may make motions, second motions or vote.

Section 4. Proxies

Members may be represented by a proxy at any regular meeting of the Central Committee. The proxy must be a registered voter in the same precinct as the absent member and must submit a note signed by the absent member instructing the Chair to recognize the proxy for the specified meeting.

Section 5. Executive Session

Under unusual circumstances, closed sessions of the Central Committee may be prudent. Sessions shall be closed to non-voting members upon a vote of two thirds of the Executive Board or two thirds of the Central Committee. Matters discussed and recorded in Executive Session shall remain confidential until otherwise directed by the Central Committee by a two-thirds vote.

Section 6. Voting

- a) Secret balloting must be used for all elections of officers or whenever demanded by one-third of members present. Motions for secret ballot are not debatable
- b) Results of all votes shall be announced by the secretary, including the number of ayes, nays and abstentions
- c) The Chair shall vote only in the case of a tie

Article VI Executive Board

Section 1. Members

The Executive Board of the Central Committee shall consist of the Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, State Committeewoman and State Committeeman.

Section 2. Meetings and Voting

The Executive Board shall meet at the call of any two of its members or the call of the Chair. Two-thirds of its members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Section 3. Duties and Authority

The Executive Board shall assist the Chair with implementing actions of the Central Committee, provide recommendations and bring proposed action to the Central Committee. The Executive Board may act on behalf of the Central Committee between its regular meetings only if the matter cannot reasonably wait to be addressed by the Central Committee at its next regular meeting.

Section 4. Limitations

The Executive Board shall not:

- a) Act contrary to previous action of the Central Committee, absent an emergency.
- b) Expend more than \$500 in a 30 day period without Central Committee approval
- c) Act on any matter requiring more than a simple majority vote of the Central Committee
- d) Amend or repeal a standing rule
- e) Enter into any contract without Central Committee approval

Article VII Committees

Each standing committee shall consist of at least three, but not more than seven members. Members shall be nominated by the Chair and confirmed by the Central Committee.

Section 1. Bylaws Committee

This committee will have the following authority and duties:

- a) Provide recommended action for bylaw amendments prior to Central Committee consideration

Section 2. Finance Committee

This committee shall have the following authority and duties:

- a) Draft a proposed budget for Central Committee consideration
- b) Develop and implement a fundraising program within adopted budget guidelines

Section 3. Platform Committee

This committee shall have the following authority and duties:

- a) Organize four months prior to the County Convention held in even numbered years.
- b) Submit a proposed platform to County Convention delegates ten days prior to the County Convention

Section 4. Vetting Committee

This committee shall have the following authority and duties:

- a) Evaluate candidates for public office to determine actual partisan affiliation
- b) Provide an opinion to the Central Committee as to actual partisan affiliation
- c) Provide a favorable opinion if no evidence to the contrary can be obtained
- d) Provide supporting evidence for adverse opinions

Section 5. County Convention Committee

This committee shall have the following authority and duties:

- a) Submit proposed convention rules to County Convention delegates ten days prior to the County Convention

Section 6. Other Special Committees

Other committees may be formed at the direction of the Chair or Central Committee to accomplish specific tasks. The composition and objective of each special committee shall be determined by the motion to create it, or the Chair in absence of such motion. Each special committee shall cease to exist upon completion of its objective.

Article VIII Candidates for Public Office

Section 1. Certification

Each candidate for any public office in Walla Walla County or for 16th Legislative District office is entitled to request Republican certification. Certification is not an endorsement, rather a statement from the Walla Walla County Republican Party that it acknowledges the candidate is indeed Republican. Upon delivery of the Vetting Committee's report, the Central Committee shall consider certification of

candidates at any regular meeting of the Central Committee, provided twenty-one days' notice of the proposed certification action is communicated to the Central Committee. All candidates receiving at least one-third of the vote shall be certified.

Candidates failing to receive certification will not be afforded access to any party resources, including but not limited to, voter database and opportunities for candidacy promotion.

Section 2. Candidate Support

Monetary contributions, in-kind contributions (as defined by the PDC) and candidate endorsements shall require Central Committee approval. The Central Committee may consider such support of certified candidates at any regular meeting of the Central Committee, provided seven days' notice of the proposed action is communicated to the Central Committee. Forty percent of the Central Committee members in good standing shall constitute a quorum for this purpose. Adoption shall require two-thirds of the vote.

Article IX Liability

The Central Committee shall maintain general liability insurance coverage with bodily injury and property damage liability limits of at least \$1,000,000 per occurrence. In addition, liability for bodily injury and property damage arising from serving or distributing alcoholic beverages must be secured with limits of at least \$1,000,000 per occurrence before any alcoholic beverages may be served at any Central Committee sponsored event.

Article X Caucus and Convention

The Walla Walla County Caucuses and Convention shall operate in accordance with rules adopted by the Washington State Republican Party. The County Convention, held in even years, shall adopt a Walla Walla County Republican Party platform to remain in effect for two years and elect delegates to the Republican Convention of Washington State.

Article XI Parliamentary Authority and Rules

Section. 1 Rules of Order

The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall govern the Central Committee, sub-committees and special meetings in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws, any standing rules or any special rules of order.

Section 2. Standing Rules

Standing rules are limited in scope to the administration of these bylaws. Although standing rules are equally binding, they may be adopted, amended, suspended or repealed by a simple majority vote at any regular meeting without advanced notice.

Article XII Amendment of Bylaws

These bylaws may be amended at any regular meeting of the Central Committee by a two-thirds vote, provided the amendment has been submitted to the Bylaws Committee and Central Committee twenty-one days in advance of the meeting at which the amendment will be considered. A quorum for Article XII action is forty percent of Central Committee membership in good standing.

Article XIII Central Committee Transition and Dissolution

Section 1. Central Committee Transition

On December 1 of even years, all financial and other assets of the Central Committee shall transfer from the outgoing Central Committee to the newly elected Central Committee. The most recently adopted platform shall remain in force until adoption of a new platform at the County Convention. All contracts and other commitments shall be honored by the newly elected Central Committee.

Section 2. Dissolution

This organization may cease to exist only if no Precinct Committee Officers are elected on the date designated for that purpose. In that event, and after payment in full of all its debts, obligations, and necessary final expenses, or after the making of adequate provision therefore, the Central Committee shall distribute all remaining assets to such tax-exempt organizations as it may deem appropriate. This action must take place prior to December 1 of the same year or shall require a two-thirds vote of members present. Failure to distribute assets by the deadline shall result in assignment of assets to the Washington State Republican Party.

--- End---

Revised Code of Washington

(Appended for Reference Only)

Chapter 29A.80 RCW

POLITICAL PARTIES

29A.80.010

Rule-making authority.

Each political party organization may adopt rules governing its own organization and the nonstatutory functions of that organization.

[2005 c 2 § 14 (Initiative Measure No. 872, approved November 2, 2004); 2003 c 111 § 2001; 1977 ex.s. c 329 § 16; 1965 c 9 § [29.42.010](#). Prior: 1961 c 130 § 2; prior: 1943 c 178 § 1, part; 1939 c 48 § 1, part; 1927 c 200 § 1, part; 1925 ex.s. c 158 § 1, part; 1909 c 82 § 6, part; 1907 c 209 § 22, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 5198, part. Formerly RCW [29.42.010](#).]

Notes:

Reviser's note: RCW [29A.80.010](#) was amended by 2005 c 2 § 14 (Initiative Measure No. 872) without cognizance of its repeal by 2004 c 271 § 193. For rule of construction, see RCW [1.12.025](#).

Short title -- Intent -- Contingent effective date -- 2005 c 2 (Initiative Measure No. 872): See notes following RCW [29A.52.112](#).

29A.80.010

Authority — Generally.

[2003 c 111 § 2001; 1977 ex.s. c 329 § 16; 1965 c 9 § [29.42.010](#). Prior: 1961 c 130 § 2; prior: 1943 c 178 § 1, part; 1939 c 48 § 1, part; 1927 c 200 § 1, part; 1925 ex.s. c 158 § 1, part; 1909 c 82 § 6, part; 1907 c 209 § 22, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 5198, part. Formerly RCW [29.42.010](#).] Repealed by 2004 c 271 § 193.

Notes:

Reviser's note: RCW [29A.80.010](#) was amended by 2005 c 2 § 14 (Initiative Measure No.

872) without cognizance of its repeal by 2004 c 271 § 193. For rule of construction, see RCW [1.12.025](#).

29A.80.020

State committee.

The state committee of each major political party consists of one committeeman and one committeewoman from each county elected by the county central committee at its organization meeting. It must have a chair and vice chair of opposite sexes. This committee shall meet during January of each odd-numbered year for the purpose of organization at a time and place designated by a notice mailed at least one week before the date of the meeting to all new state committeemen and committeewomen by the authorized officers of the retiring committee. At its organizational meeting it shall elect its chair and vice chair, and such officers as its bylaws may provide, and adopt bylaws, rules, and regulations. It may:

- (1) Call conventions at such time and place and under such circumstances and for such purposes as the call to convention designates. The manner, number, and procedure for selection of state convention delegates is subject to the committee's rules and regulations duly adopted;
- (2) Provide for the election of delegates to national conventions;
- (3) Provide for the nomination of presidential electors; and
- (4) Perform all functions inherent in such an organization.

Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter, the committee may not adopt rules governing the conduct of the actual proceedings at a party state convention.

[2013 c 11 § 79; 2003 c 111 § 2002; 1987 c 295 § 11; 1972 ex.s. c 45 § 1; 1965 c 9 § [29.42.020](#). Prior: 1961 c 130 § 3; prior: 1943 c 178 § 1, part; 1939 c 48 § 1, part; 1927 c 200 § 1, part; 1925 ex.s. c 158 § 1, part; 1909 c 82 § 6, part; 1907 c 209 § 22, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 5198, part. Formerly RCW [29.42.020](#).]

29A.80.030

County central committee — Organization meetings.

The county central committee of each major political party consists of the precinct committee officers of the party from the several voting precincts of the county. Following each state general election held in even-numbered years, this committee shall meet for the purpose of organization at an easily accessible location within the county, subsequent to the certification of precinct

committee officers by the county auditor and no later than the second Saturday of the following January. The authorized officers of the retiring committee shall cause notice of the time and place of the meeting to be mailed to each precinct committee officer at least seventy-two hours before the date of the meeting.

At its organization meeting, the county central committee shall elect a chair and vice chair of opposite sexes.

[2003 c 111 § 2003; 1987 c 295 § 12; 1973 c 85 § 1; 1973 c 4 § 5; 1965 c 9 § [29.42.030](#). Prior: 1961 c 130 § 4; prior: 1943 c 178 § 1, part; 1939 c 48 § 1, part; 1927 c 200 § 1, part; 1925 ex.s. c 158 § 1, part; 1909 c 82 § 6, part; 1907 c 209 § 22, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 5198, part. Formerly RCW [29.42.030](#).]

29A.80.031

Precinct committee officer.

If a vacancy occurs in the office of precinct committee officer by reason of death, resignation, or disqualification of the incumbent, or because of failure to elect, the respective county chair of the county central committee shall fill the vacancy by appointment. However, in a legislative district having a majority of its precincts in a county with a population of one million or more, the appointment may be made only upon the recommendation of the legislative district chair. The person so appointed must have the same qualifications as candidates when filing for election to the office for that precinct. When a vacancy in the office of precinct committee officer exists because of failure to elect at a state primary, the vacancy may not be filled until after the organization meeting of the county central committee and the new county chair has been selected as provided by RCW [29A.80.030](#).

[2004 c 271 § 120. Formerly RCW [29A.28.071](#).]

29A.80.041

Precinct committee officer, eligibility.

Any member of a major political party who is a registered voter in the precinct may file his or her declaration of candidacy as prescribed under RCW [29A.24.031](#) with the county auditor for the office of precinct committee officer of his or her party in that precinct. When elected at the primary, the precinct committee officer shall serve so long as the committee officer remains an eligible voter in that precinct.

[2009 c 106 § 3; 2004 c 271 § 148.]

29A.80.051

Precinct committee officer — Election — Term.

The statutory requirements for filing as a candidate at the primaries apply to candidates for precinct committee officer. The office must be voted upon at the primaries, and the names of all candidates in contested races must appear under the proper party and office designations on the ballot for the primary for each even-numbered year. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes will be declared elected. The term of office of precinct committee officer is two years, commencing the first day of December following the primary.

[2012 c 89 § 5; 2004 c 271 § 149.]

Notes:

Intent -- Finding -- Effective date -- 2012 c 89: See notes following RCW [29A.24.311](#).

29A.80.061

Legislative district chair — Election — Term — Removal.

Within forty-five days after the statewide general election in even-numbered years, the county chair of each major political party shall call separate meetings of all elected precinct committee officers in each legislative district for the purpose of electing a legislative district chair in such district. The district chair shall hold office until the next legislative district reorganizational meeting two years later, or until a successor is elected.

The legislative district chair may be removed only by the majority vote of the elected precinct committee officers in the chair's district.

[2004 c 271 § 150.]